

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4323

9 January 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Chairman Rogers:

In December, majorities of both Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives supported the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. This was critical for two reasons: the budget deal helps set the stage for greater fiscal certainty for our government, and it represents a long overdue need for bipartisan agreement on our nation's most pressing issues.

However, the Bipartisan Budget Act was still flawed. A week after the budget deal passed, I supported H.R. 3790 to repeal the reduction in cost of living adjustments (COLA) for working age veterans up to age 62. This legislation to fix the COLA reduction was introduced by the House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL) who, like me, also supported the budget deal.

I ask that you, as leaders of the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, take the opportunity to fix the working age veterans pension COLA reduction in the upcoming omnibus appropriations legislation. This is the right thing to do.

I voted for the budget deal because sequestration has been seriously hurting our national security and our nation's economy. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 ensured that we are able to partially restore critical funding to adequately train and equip our active duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines. Reduced training means increased risk when we ask service members to fight. That's unacceptable to those who are currently serving. It's unacceptable to their spouses and children, too.

Passing the budget deal keeps our promise to those currently serving, and now is the time to keep our promise to those who have served. Please fix the working age veterans COLA reduction in the upcoming omnibus appropriations legislation.

Sincerely,



Pete P. Gallego  
23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of Texas